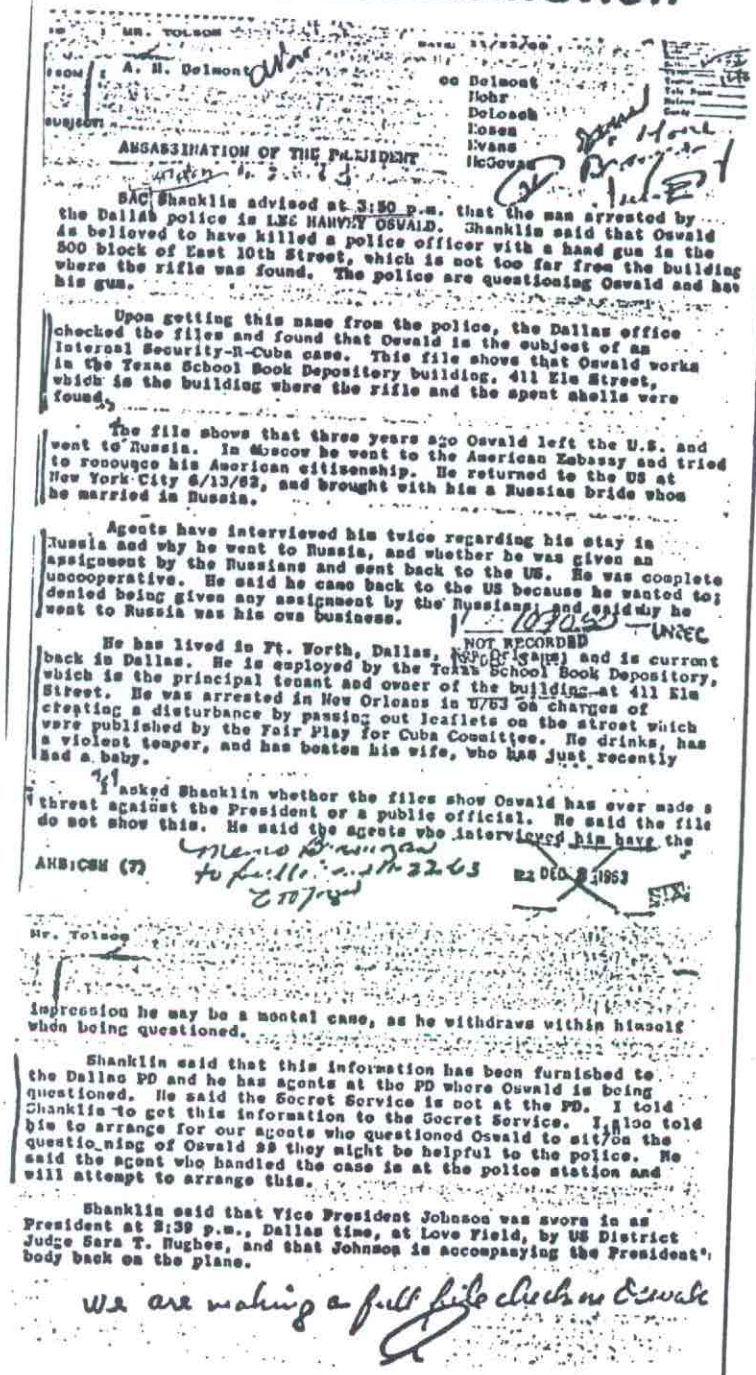
First FBI memo on the assassination



MR. TOLSON

A. H. Belmont

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ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT

SAC Shanklin advised at 3:30 p.m. that the man arrested by the Dallas police is LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Shanklin said that Oswald is believed to have killed a police officer with a hand gun in the 500 block of East 10th Street, which is not too far from the building where the rifle was found. The police are questioning Oswald and has his gun.

Upon getting this name from the police, the Dallas office checked the files and found that Oswald is the subject of an Internal Security-R-Cuba case. This file shows that Oswald works in the Texas School Book Depository building, 411 Elm Street, which is the building where the rifle and the spent shells were found.

The file shows that three years ago Oswald left the U.S. and went to Russia. In Moscow he went to the American Embassy and tried to renounce his American citizenship. He returned to the US at New York City 6/13/62, and brought with him a Russian bride whom he married in Russia.

Agents have interviewed him twice regarding his stay in Russia and why he went to Russia, and whether he was given an assignment by the Russians and sent back to the US. He was complete uncooperative. He said he came back to the US because he wanted to; denied being given any assignment by the Russians; and said why he went to Russia was his own business.

NOT RECORDED

He has lived in Ft. Worth, Dallas, [illegible] and is current back in Dallas. He is employed by the Texas School Book Depository, which is the principal tenant and owner of the building at 411 Elm Street. He was arrested in New Orleans in 8/63 on charges of creating a disturbance by passing out leaflets on the street which were published by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. He drinks, has a violent temper, and has beaten his wife, who has just recently had a baby.

I asked Shanklin whether the files show Oswald has ever made a threat against the President or a public official. He said the file do not show this. He said the agents who interviewed him have the

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DEC 3 1963

Mr. Tolson

impression he may be a mental case, as he withdraws within himself when being questioned.

Shanklin said that this information has been furnished to the Dallas PD and he has agents at the PD where Oswald is being questioned. He said the Secret Service is not at the PD. I told Shanklin to get this information to the Secret Service. I also told him to arrange for our agents who questioned Oswald to sit on the questioning of Oswald as they might be helpful to the police. He said the agent who handled the case is at the police station and will attempt to arrange this.

Shanklin said that Vice President Johnson was sworn in as President at 2:39 p.m., Dallas time, at Love Field, by US District Judge Sara T. Hughes, and that Johnson is accompanying the President's body back on the plane.

We are making a full file check on Oswald

Among the documents released by the FBI Wednesday was this memo sent from Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, within hours of the assassination of President Kennedy. The memo, from FBI Associate Director Clyde Tolson to Alan H. Belmont, assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, details information provided by Gordon Shanklin, special agent in charge of the Dallas office, about Lee Harvey Oswald, who had already been taken into custody.